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see to the correctness of the quantity and quality of purchased articles; the stewards and assistant stewards are responsible for their distribution after receipt and are required to furnish a monetary security; they work under the direct and constant supervision of the Superintendent, the Resident Medical Officer and the Medical Officer on duty. Their accounts are regularly checked by the hospital staff and monthly by the audit staff of the Accountant-General's office. The sisters and nurses on duty are responsible for seeing that each patient gets his full diet, properly cooked.

- (b) The orders passed by the Government are contained in Appendix XI of the Madras Civil Medical Code.
- (c) (i) At a conference of the Superintendents of the Government hospitals in Madras City held in August 1924, to consider the question of the dieting of patients, it was considered advisable to make provision for a more detailed and more immediate supervision in the kitchen department in order to prevent leakage. The Surgeon-General was asked to consider the question of appointing nuns for the purpose and, on his recommendation, the Government sanctioned the employment of four nuns in the Rayapuram Hospital as an experimental measure.
- (ii) The arrangement has worked satisfactorily.
- (iii) Nuns have not been appointed for the other hospitals because quarters are not available for them in those institutions. In Rayapuram, the nuns have been accommodated in rooms on the upper floor of the out-patient's department. It has not been possible to make similar arrangements in the other hospitals.

Public Health

Leper asylums in the Presidency.

* 1653 Q.—Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) how many leper asylums are maintained by the Madras Government throughout the Presidency;

(b) the strength of each asylum and the average cost to the Government for maintaining one leper;

(c) whether the Chingleput Leper Asylum is a Government institution; if not, who is the owner of the buildings;

(d) what the contribution is that is made by the Government to that institution per annum;

(e) what control the Government are exercising over the affairs of that institution; and

(f) how many lepers were turned out of the asylum during the recent strike and how many were taken back?

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A.—(a) One—the Leper Settlement of Tirumani.

(b) The average strength of the Settlement during 1927 was 426. The average cost to the Government of each leper was Rs. 19-8-6 during 1927.

(c) The Settlement is a Government institution, but the management is in the hands of the United Free Church of Scotland Mission.

(d) & (e) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the agreement, under which the management of the Settlement was transferred to the United Free Church of Scotland Mission. A copy of the agreement^a is placed on the table.

(f) One hundred and two inmates left the Settlement of their own accord in spite of every effort made to retain them. Forty-nine were re-admitted.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Panchayat Courts

Representation of Adi-Dravidas and Adi-Andhras in village panchayat courts.

1654 Q.—Swami A. S. SAHAJANANDAM: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many village panchayat courts are organized in the Presidency;

(b) whether Adi-Dravidas and Adi-Andhras are represented in each such court in proportion to their population in those villages; and

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to take any action in order to bring about such a representation?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to G.O. No. 3241, Law (General), dated the 15th October 1927, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) No.

Depressed Classes

Action taken on memorandum presented at the meeting of the Advisory Committee for Depressed Classes on 26th January 1928.

1655 Q.—Swami A. S. SAHAJANANDAM: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether any action has been taken on the memorandum presented by a member at the meeting of the Advisory Committee for the depressed classes on 26th January 1928?

A.—The Government do not know what memorandum is referred to.